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Spring Flood Awareness Week Proclamation

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Office of Emergency Services on March 21 announced Governor Joe Manchin's proclamation that March 20-26 has been designated **Spring Flood Awareness Week**.

The proclamation was released during a press conference at noon in the Office of Emergency Services. Cabinet Secretary James Spears of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety presented the proclamation and discussed the impact of flood disasters on the state. Stephen S. Kappa, WVOES director, urged citizens to be prepared and self-reliant.

"The beginning of the spring flood season is a very serious matter for the residents of West Virginia," Kappa said. "We want to strongly urge our citizens to be ready, so that they can be emotionally, physically and financially prepared to survive potential severe spring weather and flooding."

"Since January, we have had one Federal Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance. In 2003 and 2004, West Virginia had a total of seven Federal Disaster Declarations. Unfortunately, we will probably face more flood disasters."

Spring Flood Awareness Week is part of a National Weather Service campaign to encourage people to prepare emergency plans and disaster supplies. The WVOES and the other members of the West Virginia Disaster Education Network (WVDEN) are co-sponsoring the campaign in West Virginia.

WVDEN is group of agencies and nonprofit organizations working together to help improve the quality and availability of disaster preparedness information and education. State agencies involved include: Department of Education, Conservation Agency, Bureau of Threat Preparedness, Library Commission, Division of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Department of Agriculture. Other organizations involved include: Federal Emergency Management Agency, West Virginia University Extension Services, South Central and Western chapters of the American Red Cross.

Flood information is available online at the WVDEN Disaster Resistance Library located on the WVLC Web site at <http://librarycommission.lib.wv.us/>. The free booklet *Getting Ready: A Family Preparedness Guide* is available on the WVOES Web site at <http://www.wvs.state.wv.us/wvoes/>.